

**House Judiciary Committee
June 20, 2017
Family Law Section of the State Bar
HB 4691 H-1**

The Family Law Section of the State Bar (FLS) has testified before this committee in opposition to HB 4691 that would create a presumption of joint custody in all divorce proceedings. Throughout the past few weeks efforts have been made to amend the legislation. Members of FLS have individually spoken and met with committee members to discuss the specifics of the legislation and its real-world implications and draft a solution that would best address the concerns raised by all interested parties.

At this time the concerns expressed by FLS have not been adequately addressed in the H-1 version of HB 4691 therefore we do not support the legislation.

FLS continues to be very concerned that HB 4691 continues to by-pass the best interest of the child standards when determining parenting time. Further it continues to maintain many legal standards that currently have not been defined by case law or other legal means that must be litigated in the courts thus adding time and money for the parties.

We are very concerned with these changes and how they will impact families who are working through the system. The presumption and the new legal standards within this new substitute bill will most certainly add significant cost to the parties involved further disadvantaging those who have limited resources.

We urge you to oppose HB 4691 and work with the interested parties to craft a solution that does more than address a few disgruntled advocates but in fact creates a law and that serves the best interests of all Michigan families.